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Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2016 4:20 PM

To: CampusCommunications@umontana.edu

Subject: Update on Academic Program and Services Prioritization

To: The Campus Community

From: Beverly Edmond, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Subject: Update on Academic Program and Services Prioritization conversations at UM

As you may know, a workshop on Academic Program Prioritization took place at UM on October 13, 2016. The workshop was organized by the Office of the Commissioner for Higher Education (OCHE) as a Montana University System-wide initiative. Representatives from UM, Montana State University, Great Falls College, Helena College, Dawson Community College, MSU Northern, Flathead Valley Community College, Bitterroot College, MSU Billings, and Montana Tech attended.

The informal feedback I received from those who attended this session was very positive, in particular as we consider how to strengthen our academic portfolio and accompanying administrative support services. So, the next logical question is, where do we go from here?

At UM, the President's Cabinet and Academic Officers are actively discussing the potential of engaging in an Academic Program and Services Prioritization process, which would be conducted university-wide. You recall that in 2014-15 we engaged in the Academic Alignment and Innovation Program (AAIP) review and Administrative Review processes. Some of the recommendations of those initiatives are in the process of being implemented. What we learned from the workshop is that looking at **programs** and not administrative units or academic departments might produce additional useful prioritization recommendations. Indeed, initiating an Academic Program and Services Prioritization process using the methods developed by Robert Dickeson might be beneficial in further delineating the success of an institution-wide transformation.

The Dickeson model suggests institutions take a period of time (ranging from 9 months to a year) to conduct campus-wide discussions on how to approach and maximize the benefits accrued from prioritization. We believe that this approach is appropriate at UM and as such we will engage in a series of activities over the next months to address the myriad of considerations needed to support prioritization of academic programs and services. To begin this process, I will host listening sessions through the Faculty and Staff Senates to allow the campus community to share their thoughts and suggestions on how best to successfully approach prioritization at UM. The dates, times and locations for these sessions will be announced shortly. They will be coordinated by the respective governance groups.

You can learn more about these past initiatives and events by clicking on the links provided: [AAIP website](#) and [report](#), [Administrative Review website](#) and [report](#), [summary of the Academic Program Prioritization workshop](#), [Robert Dickeson's presentation](#) at the Academic Program Prioritization workshop. Once these listening sessions are conducted, we will plan additional actions to support the approach recommended by Dickeson and will notify you of next steps as we move forward.

This message was sent by the Office of the Provost to all UM faculty, staff, affiliates, and administrators.